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**Finding Flaws.** — Every scientific man knows that science is progressing and ideas are changing. Aristotle's writings on animals read strangely to-day, but we are not therefore to lay stress on his limitations. Darwin wrote the first edition of the *Origin of Species* over forty years ago, and it would be strange indeed if every part of it were acceptable to-day. Every bit of Darwin's earlier evolutionary writings was not acceptable to Darwin himself before he died — a fact to be put down to his credit. The author of this book<sup>1</sup> devotes over three hundred pages to pointing out Darwin's changes of views, "special errors and inconsistencies," "looseness and contradictions." Some of the "flaws" which the author holds up to view and takes great delight in pointing to again and again belong to the category of natural advances in knowledge; others are still debatable points; in other cases the author seems to be straining things to make a point. The worst of it is that the whole book is written in a style of oiled fluency, cocksureness, and conceit, which makes the reader doubt the author's sincerity. Thus on page 193:

I have tried to understand many things, but Mr. Darwin I cannot understand. You cannot have "uniformity of conditions" and uniformitarianism of process and result too; for the one is based on fixity and the other on fluctuation — it may be slow, but ceaseless — though it may be very, very slow, yet also of a necessity very, very sure. Hegel's Absolute was always a becoming; phenomena, conditions, are always a-coming and a-going; it is because of this that they are phenomena and conditions, and to have to write thus in the year 1899, in reference to the work not only of a great naturalist but of a thinker, makes me rather ashamed of falling back so much and so fully on what I was well taught in the logic and metaphysic class-room of Edinburgh University by the worthy successor of Sir William Hamilton, "forty years ago, my boys, forty years ago."

But after all, if only one can be undisturbed by these personal things, he will find in the book many interesting facts which the author has collected and which are new to speculative books of this sort.

**Recent Work in Electrotaxis.** — In two papers<sup>2</sup> published within the year, Dr. Oskar Carlgren has considerably advanced our

<sup>1</sup> Alexander, P. V. *Darwin and Darwinism, Pure and Mixed. A Criticism, with Some Suggestions.* London, John Bole, Sons, and Danielson, 1899. 346 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Carlgren, O. Ueber die Einwirkung des constanten galvanischen Stromes auf niedere Organismen, *Arch. Anat. u. Physiol.*, Physiol. Abth., 1900, pp. 49-76.

Carlgren, O. Ueber die Einwirkung u. s. w.: Zweite Mittheilung: Versuche an verschiedenen Entwicklungsstadien einiger Evertabraten, *Arch. Anat. u. Physiol.*, Physiol. Abth., 1900, pp. 465-480.